



Fire Department

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For Immediate Release
Date: March 7, 2007
News Release # 07-09

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MEDIA ADVISORY **FIRE SAFETY WHILE COOKING**

Due to the fire on Sunday, March 4, 2007, where one occupant was severely injured, the Milwaukee Fire Department is asking people to "WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT." Cooking fires are the number one cause of residential fires in the United States.

Because of this, the National Fire Protection Association 's (NFPA) Fire Prevention Week campaign in 2006 was focused on cooking fires, and "Watch What You Heat" was the slogan used. According to the NFPA, in an average year 114,000 fires are reported associated with cooking fires. These fires result in 290 fatalities and 4,380 injuries. The NFPA and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPCS) estimate that over 50% of cooking fires are never reported.

Here is a list of actions that should be taken to reduce fire hazard in your kitchen:

- Ø Have a properly placed and working smoke detector.
- Ø Always use approved cooking equipment.
- Ø Never leave cooking food on a stovetop unattended, and keep an eye on food inside the oven.
- Ø Have a "kids-free zone" around the stove; a three-foot area is recommended.
- Ø Have a tight fitting lid of any cooking pan handy.
- Ø Have a home fire extinguisher.
- Ø If there is a fire, turn off the heat and cover the pan; if in the oven, turn off the heat, keep the door closed, and call 911.

The Milwaukee Fire Department is dedicated to eliminating fire fatalities and reducing fire loss in the City of Milwaukee.

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